

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:MHS

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

PM:DJAMES

NEA:ADAY

JCS:ADM. PACKER

DOD/ISA:PFLINT

DOD/DSAA:COL. MILBURN

DOD/ISA:COL. WOOTEN

L/PM:TBOREK (INFO)

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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O P 262046Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100779

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECA EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, KS, MO, US

SUBJECT: ROKG INQUIRY RE POSSIBLE MILITARY SALES TO  
MOROCCO

REF: SEOUL 2552

1. BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH MOROCCO AND THE  
ROK, WE WISH TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN FACILITA-  
TING ROKG ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE  
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE WHICH COULD ACCRUE TO ROK FROM SUCH  
ASSISTANCE.

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2. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WISH TO BE IN POSITION OF AP-

PEARING TO SUPPORT ACTIONS, SUCH AS DISPATCH OF PERSONNEL BY GOM AND ROKG WHICH WOULD DIRECTLY INVOLVE NON-REGIONAL STATES IN CONFLICT AND MIGHT WELL RESULT IN SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM ALGERIA TO COMMUNIST OR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE PRESENCE OF KOREAN ADVISORS COULD HEIGHTEN SENSE OF CONFRONTATION, TO THE DETRIMENT OF EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL REGIONAL SETTLEMENT, AND PERHAPS TO ROKG'S RELATIONS WITH LDCS. REALIZING THIS IS MATTER FOR ROKG TO DECIDE, WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS NOT SEE IT AS BEING IN OUR INTEREST OR THAT OF THE NORTH AFRICAN AREA. THEREFORE WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE SOUTH KOREANS SHOULD SUPPLY ADVISORS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO MOROCCO, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO TRAINING OF MOROCCANS IN THE ROK, IF THIS FEASIBLE. FYI: FOR SIMILAR REASONS WE HAVE OPPOSED DISPATCH OF JORDANIAN MANNED AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO.

3. AS REGARDS EQUIPMENT LISTED REFTTEL, EMBASSY ASSUMPTION THAT SALE OF M-16 RIFLES NOT DESIRABLE IS CORRECT. M-16 FACILITY WAS LICENSED SOLELY TO PROVIDE ROK WITH ITS NEEDS AND SALE TO MOROCCO WOULD CONFRONT US WITH LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, YOU MAY INFORM ROKG THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A FORMAL REQUEST TO TRANSFER TO MOROCCO RADIOS, MORTARS, RECOILLESS RIFLES (ASSUMING THEY ARE IN PRODUCTION) AND MILITARY SOFTWARE. SUCH REQUEST SHOULD IDENTIFY THE PRECISE ITEMS CONCERNED, THE QUANTITY, AND HOW ORIGINALLY OBTAINED FROM US, I.E., MAP, FMS, OR TDP'S IN THE CASE OF LICENSED PRODUCTION.

4. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO MEET US STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THIRD PARTY TRANSFERS OF US-ORIGIN DEFENSE ARTICLES, SUCH AS ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGRESS, WHERE APPLICABLE, PRIOR TO OUR GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF THE TRANSACTION. A USG ROYALTY FEE MIGHT ALSO BE REQUIRED ON SUCH SALES TO A THIRD COUNTRY. AMONG FACTORS THAT WOULD INFLUENCE OUR CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED TRANSFER WOULD BE WHETHER DIVERSION TO GOM WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON ROKG CAPABILITIES.

5. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND WITH THE ROKG, THE USG HAS NOT TAKEN A PUBLIC STAND ON THE SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANCE OF THE SAHARA QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE A LONG-STANDING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO, INCLUDING THE SUPPLY OF ARMS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE PRIVATELY MADE IT CLEAR TO BOTH MOROCCO AND ALGERIA THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE. WE FAVOR A PEACEFUL, REGIONAL RESOLUTION OF THE SAHARA QUESTION, POSSIBLY WITH U.N. PARTICIPATION, BUT WITHOUT THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF MAJOR POWERS OR OTHER NON-REGIONAL STATES. SISCO

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